

The 421st Gmlet

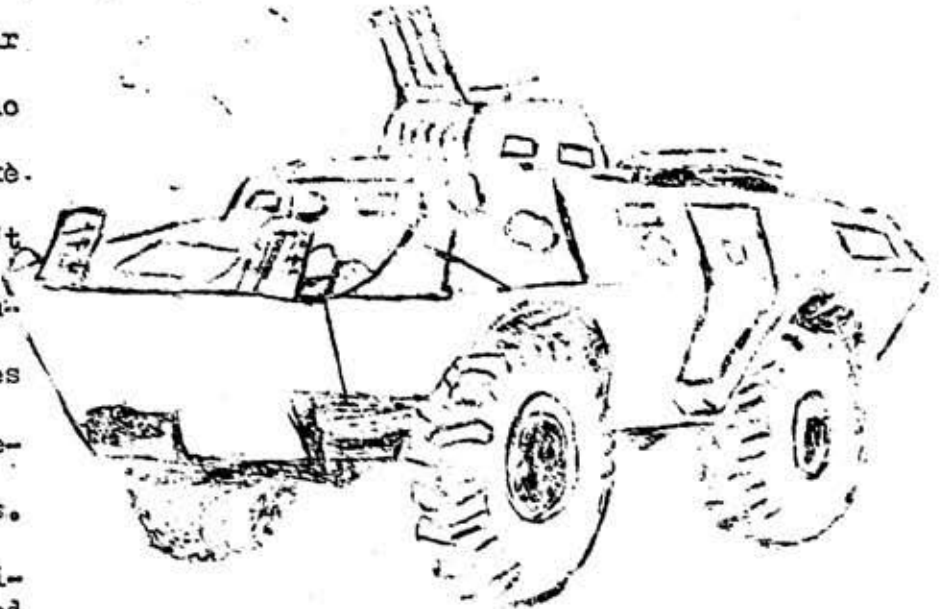
December 15, 1970

Vol 3, No 2

"Ducks" Defend Duc Pho

At first light, four ducks head south out of Duc Pho. These "ducks", unlike the feathered kind, can't fly. They're held earth-bound by four huge tires and armored hulls that resemble squashed shoe boxes.

The amphibious vehicles are technically called Commando V-100's, but are almost exclusively referred to as ducks or buggies.



Since July, 1970, four ducks have been attached to the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry. Each duck carries a four-man crew, consisting of a driver, a main gunner, a radio operator, and a door gunner armed with an M60 machinegun. The main gunner controls twin 7.62 caliber machineguns that are electrically operated and mounted on a turret.

Since their introduction, the ducks have been used in various roles.

"When we first started using them," says Sergeant First Class Charles Roberts, Columbus Georgia, "our primary job was to provide security for an ARVN mine sweep team. We would set up at possible ambush sites while the mine team checked out the road."

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Two Gimlets Win Valor Awards

Sp5 Freddie Lazarus Sp4 Gerald Santoff

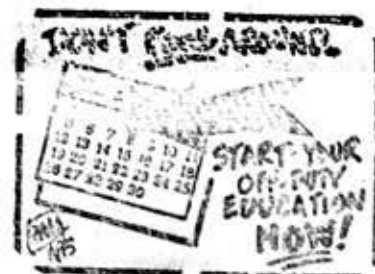
By direction of the President, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded to Specialist Five Freddie W. Lazarus for heroism in connection with ground operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Five Lazarus distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 11 September 1970 while serving as a Medical Aidman attached to company D, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry. On that date, the company was moving into a night defensive position south of Duc Pho when it came under intense fire from a Viet Cong element entrenched on a hill. As the friendly unit moved toward covered positions, one of its members was wounded and fell in an area exposed to further hostile fire. Reacting immediately and with complete disregard for his personal safety, Spec. Lazarus rushed across an expanse of open terrain to the side of his fallen fellow soldier. After moving the casualty behind the minimal cover provided by a hedgerow, Specialist Lazarus braved the possibility of additional enemy fire while skillfully administering to the wounded man, until a Medical Evacuation Helicopter extracted the fallen soldier. Through his timely and courageous actions, Specialist Lazarus served as an inspiration to his entire unit. His personal heroism, professional competence, and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest tradition of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.



By direction of the President the Bronze Star Medal is awarded to Specialist four Gerald R. Santoff for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Four Santoff distinguished himself by valorous actions on 11 September 1970 while serving as a Rifleman with Company D, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry. On that date the company was moving into a night defensive position near Hill 56 when it was assaulted by ten Viet Cong soldiers. Taking immediate action, Specialist Santoff crawled ten meters through the hostile fusillade to assist a comrade separated from the remainder of the element. Utilizing his his comrade's radio, he repeatedly braved the intense enemy barrage in order to call for an evacuation helicopter and aid the platoon leader in directing maneuvers. Through his timely actions, Specialist Santoff was instrumental

to thwarting the determined hostile attack and served as an inspiration to his entire unit. His personal heroism and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

Make Monday Pill Day



WITH THE LATEST DROPS, THESE MEN WILL BE GOING HOME SHORTLY!

Headquarters and Headquarters Company

Sp4 Robert Kelley.....1Feb
SGT John McGuire.....29Jan
SSG Ollie H. Bailey Jr.....3Feb
PFC Ralph Brown.....3Feb
Sp4 Edward Cotter.....4Feb
1Lt Jerry Webster.....1Jan



Alpha Company

Sp4 Donald Carrell.....4Feb
PFC Timothy Kinnaman.....4Feb

Bravo Company

Sp4 Glen Altomare.....4Feb
Sp4 Donald Lommori.....2Feb

Charlie Company

SGT Jerry W. Manley.....2Feb
Sp4 Richard A. Melhorn.....4Feb
PFC Willis Bartlett.....4Feb

Echo Company

Sp4 James Beamon.....24Jan



"Short!"

LTC Robert A. Witter.....Bn Commander

1LT Billy J Orr.....Adjutant

PFC Gene Colling.....Editor

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Malaria Is A Bummer--Take The Pill

Ducks

--continued from page 1

Specialist Four Kim Thomas, Lima Ohio, along with Roberts, has been with the ducks from the start.

"We've had a lot of good times on the ducks," recalls Thomas, "but we've also had moments when it was touch and go."

One morning while patrolling south of Sa Huynh, the ducks were ambushed.

"I looked out the window, says Thomas, "and I could see bullets hitting in the rice paddies on either side of the road. It sounded like hail stones hitting a tin roof when bullets splatted against the sides. It seemed like hours before our 75's finally chased the VC off."

Roberts remembers the incident well because it happened the day before he was to leave the ducks and go to the rear.

"After we checked ourselves out, and found everything still attached," recalls Roberts, "we continued south. In midafternoon we were ambushed again, but this time we got in high gear, and moved out of the area."

According to Thomas, who keeps a running total, the ducks have been shot at 16 times, but have never had a casualty. He attributes the fact largely to the speed of the vehicles.

"They can go up to 70 miles per hour, so we can out run an ambush fairly easily," he says.

Presently, the ducks are used mostly for support of ARVN units. To bridge the communication gap, the crew enlists the aid of a 12 year old Vietnamese interpreter named Sun. Dressed in camouflaged fatigues and combat boots, Sun accompanies the ducks daily. The relationship has mutual benefits as the crew learns Vietnamese from Sun, while he becomes more fluent in English.

The ducks are also welcome sights to tired and thirsty Ginlets heading back to LZ Debbie after a patrol. When the troops are picked up by the ducks, they can expect to find cold sodas waiting for them, compliments of the crew.

In the little over four months that they have patrolled the area surrounding Duc Pho, the ducks have become readily recognized by both ARVN and American soldiers—even if they don't look much like their feathered counterparts.

Let The Good Times Roll

Construction is nearing completion on a club that will provide beer and sounds for all 4-21 enlisted men. The club is located next to the Alpha company orderly room.

According to Sergeant First Class William Smith who is in charge of the club, the opening date will be in time to handle the holiday party rush.

Sergeant Smith invites everyone in to have a beer, listen to music, and let the good times roll.

Peace
on
Earth



Easy Out Not So Easy

Many soldiers are receiving inaccurate information from "guard house lawyers" on the subject of less than honorable discharges. As a result, some soldiers believe that it is fairly easy to have a less than honorable discharge changed once the individual is separated from the service.

Several of the rumors on this subject are being spread in units, stockades and coffee houses.

According to the rumors, a less than honorable discharge may be changed if the recipient:

- a. Obtains Congressional interest
- b. Pays a fee of \$500
- c. Waits six months, after which the discharge automatically will be changed to honorable.

All of those rumors are false. Furthermore, it is rare that an unfavorable discharge is ever changed to honorable.

Some confusion existing in this area may result from a certificate issued by the Department of Labor. An Exemplary Rehabilitation Certificate may be requested from the Department of Labor three years following an unfavorable discharge. All the certificate indicates is that the individual concerned has maintained a good employment record and has incurred no police record during the three years following discharge. The original character of the discharge remains unchanged.

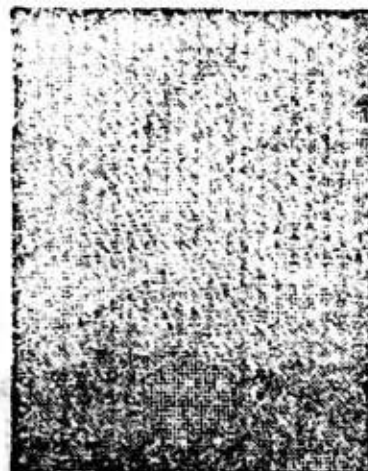
Two agencies have authority to change the character of a discharge once the individual has been release from active duty. They are the Army Discharge Review Board and the Army Board for Correction of Military Records. Both of these boards operate under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Army.

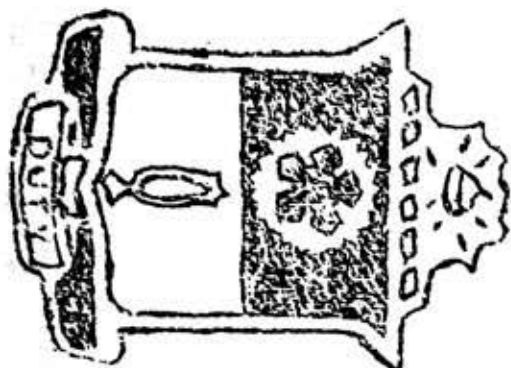
Appeals are allowed for 15 years from the time of separation from service. However, in most cases, appeals are considered only when there is evidence of fraud or improper procedure or when policies under which the original discharge was issued have been changed.

(Courtesy of Army News)



"Damned pollution!"





SSAN

Co, 4th Bn 21st Inf
 Infantry Brigade
 APO San Francisco 96217

Name

Number

Service

City

State

Zip



LOOK ACE,..... FORGET THE
 CANDY AND NUTS THIS YEAR, HOW
 ABOUT A HOP TO HONG KONG !!